C2 3. **(Twice Amended)** A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of drospirenone is from about 2.5 mg to about 3.5 mg.

C3 5. **(Twice Amended)** A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of ethinylestradiol is from about 0.015 mg to about 0.04 mg.

6. **(Twice Amended)** A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of drospirenone is from about 3.0 to about 3.5 mg and the amount of ethinylestradiol is from about 0.015 to about 0.03 mg.

7. **(Amended)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier promotes rapid dissolution of the drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol, the dissolution being determined by applying the USP paddle method, the dissolution media being water at 37°C and the stirring rate being 50 rpm, and wherein rapid dissolution means that at least 70% of each of drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol are dissolved within 30 minutes.

C4 9. **(Twice Amended)** A composition according to claim 7, wherein at least 80% of each of drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol are dissolved within 20 minutes.

10. **(Twice Amended)** A pharmaceutical kit comprising a number of separately packaged, individually removable, and orally administrable daily dosage units placed in a packaging unit and intended for oral administration for a period of at least 21 consecutive days, wherein said daily dosage units each comprise a combination of micronized

drospirenone in an amount of from about 2 mg to about 4 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount from about 0.01 to about 0.05 mg.

17. (Twice Amended) A kit according to claim 10, wherein the daily dosage units comprise drospirenone in an amount of from about 3.0 to about 3.5 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount of from about 0.015 to about 0.03 mg.

18. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical kit comprising a number of separately packaged, individually removable, and orally administrable daily dosage units placed in a packaging unit and intended for oral administration for a period of at least 28 consecutive days, wherein at least 21 of said daily dosage units comprise a combination of micronized drospirenone in an amount of from about 2 mg to about 4 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount from about 0.01 to about 0.05 mg, wherein at least 1 but no more than 7 of said daily dosage units contain 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount from about 0.01 to about 0.05 mg and contain no drospirenone.

36. (Twice Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drospirenone is in the form of a prodrug of the compound.

Add the following new claims:

--**41.** The kit of claim 10, wherein both the drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol are micronized.

42. The kit of claim 18, wherein both the drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol are micronized.

43. The composition of claim 36, wherein the prodrug is an ester of drospirenone.--